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**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the pending paragraph in the Abstract as indicated:

A raster image path architecture having the capacity for supporting the rendering and output of a device-independent grayscale raster image, while also offering the capacity for supporting the rendering and output of a device-dependent ~~grayscale~~ binary raster image, thus offering the advantages of outputting a device-independent grayscale raster image while preserving the performance and image quality advantages of a conventional binary raster image path architecture.